

JONES, JOHN WILLIAM (1827 - 1884), editor of Y Drych, a Welsh-American newspaper

Name: John William Jones
Date of birth: 1827
Date of death: 1884
Gender: Male
Occupation: editor of Y Drych, a Welsh-American newspaper
Area of activity: Literature and Writing; Printing and Publishing
Author: Robert (Bob) Owen

Born 11 January 1827 at Bryn-bychan, Llanaelhaearn, Caernarfonshire. He moved with his parents to Ty'n-llwyn, Llanllyfni, where his father kept a school. In 1845 he emigrated, with a number of Caernarvonshire and Merioneth families, to the U.S.A. He worked on farms in Racine (Wisconsin), on a canal near Chicago, and as a furniture carpenter in Utica (N.Y.). He received some further education at Clinton and started to keep school himself, teaching his pupils arithmetic; he became proficient in this subject as well as in astronomy and geology, and, in course of time, acquired a wide general knowledge. When *Y Drych* was founded in 1851 he began to contribute to its columns, and, towards the end of 1852, was invited by the proprietor, [John Mather Jones](#), 1826 - 1874, of Bangor, Caernarfonshire, to come to New York as its editor, a post which he continued to hold until about the middle of 1884. The *Drych* was, however, not a success, even after a journal called *Y Gwyllyddydd* was joined to it in 1855, until the editor became also the proprietor in 1858. The *Drych* was thought by some people to be in favour of slavery. In the year in which he became proprietor of *Y Drych*, Jones won the prize at the Utica New Year's Day eisteddfod for an essay on the subject of the evils of slavery; at the same time he won the prize for an essay on geology. He had, in 1852, been the editor of a Welsh quarterly journal, *Yr Adolygydd Chwarterol*, published in New York. He wrote several books - on such subjects as arithmetic, reading and writing, a history of the war in the Crimea, etc. He paid frequent visits to his native land. He died 8 October 1884 and was buried in Forest Hill cemetery, Utica.

Author

Robert (Bob) Owen, (1885 - 1962)

Sources

Y Drych, 18 October 1856, 2 January 1858, 7 May 1885, 24 March 1921, 10 January 1924

The Cambrian (Cincinnati), 1884, 293

J. Jones ('Myrddin Fardd'), *Enwogion Sir Gaernarfon* (1922)

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